been abolished and now STD/ISD PCOs are provided to all the eligible applicants as per their registration.

(c) In Uttar Pradesh 39,020 persons had applied for PCO booths during the last three years.

(d) and (e) The registration of application for allotment of PCOs is a continous process. Applications from all the eligible persons are accepted and allotment is made to eligible candidates as per their registration.

**Telephone connection in U.P. villages**

4613. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages have been connected by telephones till date and its percentage to the total;

(b) by when the remaining villages are proposed to be covered; and

(c) whether any target date has been fixed for covering U.P. villages in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Out of 607, 491 villages in the country, 374,605 villages, *i.e.* 61.7% have been provided with public telephone facilities till 31st March 2000.

(b) and (c) All the remaining 232,886 villages, including those in Uttar Pradesh will be covered progressively by March 2002.

**Telephone on demand in Gujarat**

†4614. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government provides telephone on damend in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of people to whom telephone

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.